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California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: _____
Agenda Item: _____

Recommendation re Membership of Independent Science Board*

Description: Letter recommends that one member of the Independent Science Board be an expert in socio-economics.

Recommended Action: Committee Adopt

Subcommittee Recommendation

The Subcommittee recommends.

Background

Issues raised by Working Landscapes Subcommittee. If adopted by Authority, recommendation would be forwarded to Chief Scientist.

Committee Role

Recommendation supports Committee role in providing breadth of input into decision making for implementation of CALFED program.

Attachments:

Draft letter to Bay Delta Authority

DRAFT

2004

California Bay-Delta Authority
650 Capital Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request that Independent Science Board Include an Expert in Socio-Economics

Authority Members:

The California Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) is one forum for public review and comment on the implementation of the CALFED/Bay Delta Authority Program. This letter is a request that the newly authorized Independent Science Board include expertise in the fields of rural sociology and agricultural economics.

These scientists would advise the Authority on scientific investigations, assessment methodologies and performance measures to determine costs and benefits of a Working Landscape approach to meeting Program goals. With the input of these scientists, the ISB will also be able to analyze the costs and benefits of other Program actions on agriculture, the land and water resources on which it depends. Finally, the presence of this scientific expertise on the ISB will help all Authority programs understand and address the environmental justice implications and opportunities of Bay-Delta Program implementation, including effects on rural communities, jobs and property-based revenues.

BDPAC's Working Landscapes Subcommittee is a key forum for discussing "on the ground" impacts of implementation of the overall program. The Working Landscapes Subcommittee has recommended that at least one member of the 20-member Science Board have knowledge and understanding of the implications of program implementation to the landowners and communities that will be impacted over the 30-year life of the program. This recommendation would provide breadth of knowledge, and promote sound reasoned decision-making as difficult topics are considered in the future.

The full BDPAC has reviewed this recommendation and supports the concept that expertise in the field of rural sociology and agricultural economics would be appropriate and beneficial to program implementation and to the Independent Science Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation,

Sincerely,

Gary Hunt
Chair